

Midland Public Schools

Inspiring Excellence

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Superintendent Communiqué

May 28, 2019

#MPSinspiringexcellence

INCLUSION & DIVERSITY (I & D) UPDATE

At the Monday, May 20 Board of Education meeting, Associate Superintendent Penny Miller-Nelson and MPS Inclusion & Diversity partner Lee Ann Keller, shared info about the ongoing work of the MPS I & D Committee. A lot of powerful information was shared.



One important piece of the presentation included the MPS I & D VISION ...

Everyone in our school community is valued, safe, treated with kindness and respect, and works together to make our community and world a better place.

Committee thoughts about the I & D VISION:

- ➔ EVERYONE really means EVERYONE
- ➔ We think of this VISION through the lens of race, ethnicity, culture, gender, ability, socio-economic factors, SOGI, and all other factors to be considered in the range of human differences.
- ➔ VALUED is an important word in this statement because it goes beyond tolerance and acceptance and moves us into a space of understanding and appreciating one another's differences and strengths and diverse perspectives ...

Please take a few moments to watch the presentation.

<https://youtu.be/xi99aXjzB8s>

**I & D is not just relevant for MPS!
It is an "issue" of our times...
our schools, our community,
our state, our country, our world!**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WEDNESDAY'S MPS GRADUATION CEREMONIES




Given this week's forecasts we are watching the weather closely to determine if Wednesday's graduation ceremonies will be held at Dow Diamond or inside our high school gyms.

On the front page of the MPS website (www.midlandps.org)

- ➔ THIS EVENING—Tuesday (5/28) at 5:00 pm—we will release our best "prediction" of tomorrow's graduation venue;
- ➔ TOMORROW MORNING—Wednesday (5/29) by 10:00 am—we will release our "final decision" of the 2019 MPS graduation venue.

Graduation times for inside or outside ceremonies:

 **MIDLAND HIGH SCHOOL —**
4:30 pm inside MHS Gym or outside at Dow Diamond

 **HH DOW HIGH SCHOOL –**
7:00 pm in the DHS Gym; 7:30 pm at Dow Diamond

Ticket Information: Graduating Seniors have received 6 reserved tickets.

- ➔ At Dow Diamond, in addition to the 6 tickets, others are welcome to come and sit in the general seating areas.
- ➔ In the school gym (because of fire codes and seating capacity) the 6 reserved ticket holders ONLY will be able to attend inside the gym.

At the Monday, May 20 MPS Board of Education meeting, Board and audience members heard a wonderful presentation, "Expanding Global Citizenship through MPS Culture Clubs." The Culture Club Directors and presenters were Kim McMahan, World Language Teacher at Adams ES, and Karen Staley, Jefferson MS Math & Language Arts Teacher. Thank you also to these students who presented information about their experience in their school's Culture Club:

- ➔ **Jefferson MS:** Juliana Vargas, Annabelle Wilken, Noah Staley, and Luke McMahan
- ➔ **Adams ES:** Tega Kamatoy, Drew Thornton, Priya Ghose and Rhyannah Nunamaker
- ➔ **Siebert ES:** Ashwin Vemury and Ricky Wang

(Nicole Fisher, Siebert Culture Club Staff Director, was unable to attend)



MPS CONNECT is a great communications tool for you to connect with me. Every message comes to my desktop. Either I or a member of our staff will do all we can to reply to your message the next work day. Click here to connect with me: <https://goo.gl/forms/ciB8b7FAMXb4pQxN2>

**MPS *DSA* NOMINATION WINDOW IS
NOW OPEN!
NOMINATION DEADLINE IS
JUNE 14, 2019**



The Midland Public Schools' **Distinguished Service Awards (DSA)** were established to honor MPS **support** personnel.

The following MPS employee groups are eligible for nomination:

Administrative Assistant/Office Professional, Grounds, Manager, Maintenance, Paraprofessional, Technician, Transportation

This award is separate from the Gerstacker Teacher Proficiency Award. Support staff only are eligible for this award.

(Please do not nominate a teacher; they are not eligible for this award.)

Additional **DSA** information is available on the MPS website (www.midlandps.org).

Here is a link to the on-line nomination form: <https://forms.gle/ueiDPDrv3SBDcbRY8>

Nominate a great MPS "support staffer" today!

Thank you to the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for making the MPS Distinguished Service Awards possible!



The PATHS program was challenged to meet

the needs of the students with rotating guest teachers from the end of October through January. In February, we were excited to hire teacher Mrs. Chelsea Camilleri to the team. During this time, long-term substitute Ms. Amy Bokros, also started assisting the program. They both jumped right in, earned the trust of the students and brought new energy to the program. It is with much gratitude that we thank them for all their work helping students become successful in their education! They will be missed. The PATHS program is happy to welcome back Mrs. Jennifer Frazee in July. Mrs. Frazee helped start the PATHS program two years ago and has remained a supporter of the program. She is an advocate for students who need an alternative to traditional high school. She is great at developing positive relationships with the students, helping them set goals for their success in their courses and was a critical part of the success of our first year. Mrs. Frazee is excited to return to work with MPS students in the PATHS program.



We would like to congratulate Mr. Lee Leffingwell, who will be retiring at the end of June as the Electronic Learning Facilitator at MHS. Mr. Leffingwell started with the program when it began ten years ago. He has been a vital part of its development and growth over that time. His expertise and desire to make a difference for the students of MPS will be missed. We wish him well in his retirement! With Mr. Leffingwell's departure, we welcome Mr. Frankie Ardelean to the team. Mr. Ardelean is a recent grad of CMU with a Bachelor of Science in Education degree with Secondary Certification in Math and History. He student taught at Dow High and comes highly recommended. His mathematics background will be helpful for our online students.



CHINESE ART EXCHANGE

The 3rd and 4th graders at Woodcrest participated in the Chinese Art Exchange Program through the MSU Extension offices. Students looked at Chinese artifacts with Mr. Wang in January and drew pictures with Mrs. Hall and Ms. Klykken in February and March. Students researched locations in Midland and around the State of Michigan that were special to them. They illustrated a picture to tell a story about Michigan and to teach children in China about the Michigan culture. Woodcrest had eleven pieces of artwork sent to MSU for further judging. We are excited to announce that eight students from Woodcrest will have their artwork go to China as a gift.



Congratulations: **Mya Pfenninger, Owen King, Isabelle Schmelzer, Peyton Hardner, Heidie Fix, Danielle Folkenroth, Ana Rutterbush and Brady Kosberg.** Your artwork will be going to China!

Krew Bills, Olga Artemenko and Kaelyn Cole represented Woodcrest by having their artwork sent to MSU.

Huge Used Book Giveaway

At Central Park Elementary School

Monday, June 24

MPS staff only: 4:00 pm—5:00 pm

Open to all: 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 25

Open to all: 4:00 pm—7:00 pm

*The Book Giveaway is in the cafeteria.
Look for the signs.*

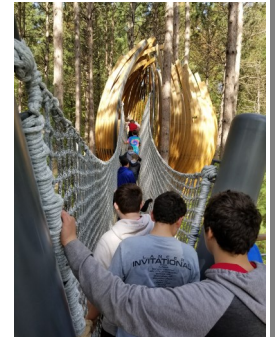
**FREE
BOOKS!**



Midland Public Schools
Inspiring Excellence



Last week, Ms. Jacobs and Ms. Partanen's classes from Jefferson Middle School enjoyed some time out in nature in the lovely Whiting Forest, the nation's longest canopy walk that rises up to 40 feet above the ground. What a beautiful gem to have and enjoy in Midland!



Congrats, Chargers!!

Because of your many efforts to foster Environmental Stewardship, Energy Conservation and Sound Resource Use, HH Dow High School has met the requirements to earn the second-highest recognition as an **Emerald Level Michigan Green School!**

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has provided a Certificate of Recognition from the State of Michigan commending HH Dow High School for its efforts to be a true Michigan Green School!

Kudos, Chargers, for all you do every day to make Dow High **GREENER!**



Thank you to all of our wonderful 2018-19 volunteers!
We appreciate the time, talents and treasures you shared with MPS students and staff during the 2018-19 school year!

As we look ahead to the 2019-20 school year, here are a few areas where we know we could use some volunteer help:

Pre-Primary Center at Carpenter Street School:

- ✓ School Parent/Lead Parent
- ✓ Lead for Backpack Buddies

General Volunteers needed:

- ✓ Parking Lot supervision at Drop-off/Pick-up times
- ✓ Lunchroom supervision (Elementary/Middle)
- ✓ Playground Supervision (Elementary)
- ✓ Class Assistance with Students (Elementary)
- ✓ Band Assistance with Students (Elementary)

Want more info about volunteering for MPS, go to www.midlandps.org/volunteer



United for Success
Coordinator:
Renee Urlaub
urlaubrs@midlandps.org
631-3670; 923-5034



A message from the School Mental Health Workgroup ...

May 28, 2019

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Have you heard about the Hope Portal?

Link: <http://www.myhopeportal.com/#>



myhopeportal.com is a new, comprehensive resource for mental health information, supports, and providers SPECIFIC TO THE MIDLAND AND NORTHEAST MICHIGAN AREA



Good mental health is an important part of a thriving community.

Hope Portal, powered by 211 Northeast Michigan, is a web-based resource, connecting people to the help they need in just a few clicks.

Hope Portal is:

- A welcoming site for individuals, families, healthcare professionals, educators, businesses and nonprofit organizations who want to connect to mental health care information, resources and providers.
- An online directory and referral resource containing trusted providers who can meet a variety of mental health needs for people of all ages.

Our Resources

The mental health agencies listed on Hope Portal include licensed professionals, profit and nonprofit organizations, help hotlines, support organizations, and hospitals/medical facilities. The list is updated regularly.

A comprehensive resource for mental health issues



A comprehensive resource for mental health issues.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: [1-800-273-TALK](tel:1-800-273-TALK) (8255) or chat online with a counselor: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/GetHelp/Life
 National Alliance on Mental Illness Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741
 Veterans Crisis Line (for veterans): [1-800-273-8255](tel:1-800-273-8255) (press 1)
 National Domestic Violence Hotline: [1-800-799-SAFE](tel:1-800-799-SAFE) (7233) --- Local resource, Shelterhouse [877-216-6383](tel:877-216-6383)
 National Sexual Assault Hotline: [1-800-656-HOPE](tel:1-800-656-HOPE) (4673)
 Community Mental Health for Central Michigan: [800-317-0708](tel:800-317-0708)
 Trevor Project for LGBTQ+ Lifeline: [1-866-488-7386](tel:1-866-488-7386)
 Trans Lifeline: [1-877-565-8860](tel:1-877-565-8860)

211

A 211 Call Center can help you find answers and help. 211 uses data from health and human service agencies to match your needs to available resources. Call Center specialists can link or refer you directly to an agency or organization that will help with your specific concern. Dial 2-1-1 from any phone to be connected with a trained professional who knows where to get help. 211 Northeast Michigan specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to residents of 23 counties in Northeast Michigan



Paying for Care

Mental health care is covered by most insurances. On the back of your insurance card, you should find a number for Member Services or Customer Services. By calling that number, you should receive assistance and information about the following:

- Coverage information
- In-network providers
- Cost of services (co-pay, deductibles)
- Service limitations that you might have

You can also use the internet to go to your insurance company's website to find information on providers in your area that take your insurance. Some providers offer a sliding fee scale. If you're interested in a provider, call their office to inquire if they have a sliding fee scale. Some providers see individuals at a reduced rate when there is a proven hardship.

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STEP 2: Child / Adolescent Resources

- Crisis Lines
- Assessment/Evaluation
- Family Counseling
- Group Counseling
- Individual Counseling
- Medication
- Substance Abuse
- Violence/Abuse Services

On May 18, three Boy Scouts from Troop 763, celebrated achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. All three Eagle scouts attend Dow High. Pictured from left: **Max Morey, senior; Austin Urlaub, junior; Jacob Telgenhoff, senior**. The boys each completed an Eagle Scout project around the community. We send our congratulations to Max, Austin and Jacob for achieving the highest rank possible in the BSA program!



Join our Team

MPS Current Job Openings

Click on this link for current job postings:

<https://www.applitrack.com/mps/onlineapp/jobpostings/view.asp>

Position	Building	Posting End Date
Coach, Assistant, Cheer	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Assistant, Wrestling	HH Dow HS	until filled
Coach, Head, Soccer, JV	HH Dow HS	until filled
HVAC Technician	District-wide	until filled
Mechanic's Assistant	Transportation	until filled
Preschool Teaching Associate	Carpenter School	until filled
Sign Language Interpreter	District-wide	until filled
Teacher, P.R.O.D.I.G.Y. Program (3 positions)	ADE, PME, WCE	until filled
Teacher, Physical Education/Health	District-wide	5/28/19

In addition, we are always looking for
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS, PARAPROFESSIONALS & BUS DRIVERS.

Click on this link for information about these opportunities:

<https://www.midlandps.org/Content/Employment%20Opportunities>

**MEET UP
and
EAT UP**

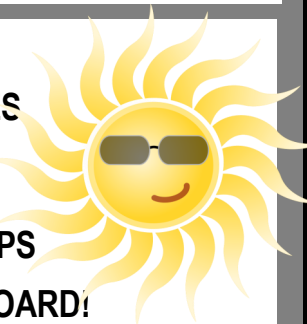
We included the information for **FREE SUMMER MEALS FOR CHILDREN 18 YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER** in last week's Communique. If you didn't get a chance to see it, the letter is posted on our two flyer boards. Here are the links:

**LOOKING FOR FUN
SUMMER ACTIVITIES
FOR YOUR CHILD?**

**CHECK OUT THE MPS
STUDENT FLYER BOARD!**

**FUN SUMMER STUFF IS COMING IN
DAILY (AND WE ARE NOT
EXAGGERATING!!!!)**

Here is the link:



Midland Public Schools
600 East Carpenter
Midland, Michigan 48640

MPS Website:

www.midlandps.org

Twitter:

@MichaelSharrow2
@MidlandPS

YouTube Channel:

<http://midps.org/youtube>

Student Flyers:

<https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/>

Community Flyers:

<https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers>

Administration	923-5001
Adams Elementary	923-6037
Carpenter Pre-Primary	923-6411
Central Park Elem.	923-6836
Chestnut Hill Elem.	923-6634
Plymouth Elementary	923-7616
Siebert Elementary	923-7835
Woodcrest Elementary	923-7940
Jefferson Middle	923-5873
Northeast Middle	923-5772
H. H. Dow High	923-5382
Midland High	923-5181

MPS Board of Education Members:

- Pam Singer, President
- Scott McFarland, Vice President
- Lynn Baker, Secretary
- Mary Fredell, Treasurer
- Brad Blasy, Trustee
- Jon Lauderbach, Trustee
- Phil Rausch, Trustee

Midland Public Schools now has **TWO FLYER BOARDS!**

- ✓ **Student Flyers:** Fun activities, events and opportunities for students: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/studentflyers/>
- ✓ **Community Flyers:** Information and events that may be of interest to parents & adults: <https://sites.google.com/midlandps.org/communityflyers>

Check back often. Flyers are coming in all the time!

wise thought to ponder ...

"Aggression unopposed becomes a contagious disease." — Jimmy Carter

"America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense human rights invented America." — Jimmy Carter

